

The Wichita Art Museum is a major cultural center serving the state's largest city, the surrounding region, and the Great Plains. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit, interpret and promote the study of American art, and to engage the public in the enjoyment and understanding of America's artistic heritage and evolving cultural identity.

Overview

The Wichita Art Museum (WAM) is the largest art museum in Kansas and contributes to the cultural vitality of life in Wichita. Exhibits include selections from the permanent collection of more than 7,000 artworks. Along with a large collection of paintings, the Museum offers a rich selection of sculptures, works on paper, drawings, and decorative arts. The collection of American masterpieces reflects the richness and diversity of American culture from colonial times to the present and includes artworks by artists like Edward Hopper, Marry Cassatt, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins and many others. The Art Museum hosts visiting exhibits from across the country three to four times per year.

Museum staff works closely with volunteers to present a vigorous educational program. The public enjoys "Stories in Art" sessions based on artwork in the Museum's galleries, educational videos and gather weekly for "Gallery Talks." WAM for Kids, located in the basement of the facility, is an educational and fun center for children of all ages and their parents. Each year more than 13,000 school children benefit from classroom visits, tours of exhibits and educational materials. In addition to those services, the Museum offers rental rooms for special events; a store with unique and interesting gifts; and a research library including locally hard to find resources, auction records, and exhibition catalogues. Many volunteers contribute by providing policy leadership as board members, conducting tours, raising funds to supplement City support, and working directly with professional staff to serve the public. The Wichita Art Museum's Art Library consists of 40,000 works, including 8,000 volumes, which augments the Wichita Public Library's material collection.



Finance and Operations

The Wichita Art Museum receives an annual subsidy from the City to support operating costs. Additional funds are provided by private donations.

The Museum is currently expanding, adding 33,400 square feet. The expansion includes a new entrance, a 6,000 square foot Great Hall featuring works of art and space for special events. The expansion will provide 40 percent more exhibit space and improved areas for the conservation, preservation and art storage. The current WAM for Kids will be transformed into a new interactive educational gallery for children and adults. The Art Resource Center has over 1,700 items that can be loaned to Kansas's teachers for classroom use. During 1999, more than 45,000 people viewed materials from the Center. During 2000/2001 when Center was moved to an off-site location, more than 39,000 people reviewed materials. The new building will include an elevated restaurant with a wonderful view overlooking the Arkansas River and the Museums on the River corridor. The City's contribution toward the expansion is \$6 million of the \$10.5 million project with \$4.5 million derived from private contributions to the Wichita Art Museum's Expansion fund. Upon completion, the Wichita Art Museum will be 115,000 square feet, larger than Exploration Place.

*Making a difference....
with the enrichment of art.*

Wichita Art Museum Budget Summary					
	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2002 Revised	2003 Adopted	2004 Approved
Personal Services	765,106	1,002,880	991,870	1,026,130	1,049,610
Contractual Services	495,930	461,110	202,840	369,240	346,380
Commodities	14	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	3,470	0	0	0
Total Fund Expenditures	1,261,050	1,467,460	1,194,710	1,395,370	1,395,990